

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 SAB-01 SSM-03 EUR-12 /079 W

----- 061449

R 281430Z APR 76

FM AMIMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7948

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FPOR, YE, TC, MU

SUBJECT: HAMDI VISIT TO OMAN AND UAE RESULTS IN SOME NEW
FOREIGN AID AND PROMISES OF VISIT BY SHAYKH ZAYD

1. COMMAND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN IBRAHIM AL-AHAMDI LED
HIGH POWERED DELEGATION TO OMAN (APRIL 18-22) AND
ABU DHABI (APRIL 22-23) LAST WEEK. ALTHOUGH LITTLE OF
SUBSTANCE RESULTED FROM EITHER TRIP, WITH OMAN VISIT HIGH
LEVEL YAR DELEGATIONS HAVE NOW VISITED EVERY "MUSHRAQ"
STATE WITH EXCEPTION OF LEBANON AND PDRY, THUS PUTTING SEAL
ON ONE OF HAMDI'S FOREIGN POLICY GOALS OF STRENGTHENING
YAR'S CONTACTS WITH MODERATE ARAB FRIENDS AS COUNTER TO RADICAL
TRENDS IN REGION.

2. BREIF ABU DHABI STOP (HAMDI'S SECOND IN PAST YEAR)
WAS MEANT AS GESTURE TO UAE LEADER, SHAYKH ZAYD, FOR HIS
UNSTINTING SUPPORT FOR YAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.
ACCORDING TO PARG SOURCES, SHAYKH ZAYD HAS PROMISED TO
BUILD HOUSE, SPEND "PART" OF HIS SUMMER VACATION IN
YEMEN, IF ONLY TO SEE SABAEN RUINS AROUND MARIB WHICH
HAVE INTERESTED HIM IN PAST. ABU DHABI APPARENTLY
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AGREED TO EXPANSION OF TV FACILITIES TO OTHER

PARTS OF COUNTRY, BUT AID WAS NOT MAJOR SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION.

3. DELEGATION MEMBERS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH WARMTH AND EXTENT OF WELCOME RECEIVED IN OMAN, WHICH THEY DESCRIBE AS POSSIBLY BETTER THAN THAT ACCORDED KING KHALID. SULTAN QABOOS REPORTEDLY DONATED OUTRIGHT GIFT OF DOLLARS THREE MILLION TO BE USED AS YARG SAW FIT. MINSTATE FOR DEVELOPMENT IRYANI ONOW LOOKING FOR WAYS TO USE FUNDS AND IS CONSIDERING AID FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR PROPOSED LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS AS ONE POSSIBLE AVENUE.

4. AGAIN, HOWEVER, AID WAS NOT MAJOR SUBJECT IN OMAN. HAMDI VISITED DHOFAR, APPARENTLY WITH GREAT SATISFACTION AND INTEREST, AND THUS PUT SEAL OF APPROVAL OF NORTHERN YEMEN ON MILITARY OPERATIONS AND FOREIGN PRESENCE WHICH SOUTHERN YEMEN HAS SO BITTERLY CONTESTED. EVEN MORE THAN HAMDI'S HIGHLY EQUIVOCAL STATEMENTS IN OMAN ABOUT YWP-PDRY "UNITY" TALKS, VISIT IS MEASURE OF YAR DISTRUST AND DISLIKE OF ADEN REGIME.

5. YEMENIS REPPORT THAT OMANS WERE HIGHLY CIRITICAL OF SAUDI DIPLOMACY TOWARD PDRY AND ALSO OF SAUDI UNWILLINGNESS OR INABILITY TO DEVISE NORMAL AND CLOSE FORMS OF CONSULTATION WITH FRIENDS. YEMENIS OF COURSE HAVE SIMILAR COMPLAINTS, AND SAID SO.

COMMENT: WARMTH OF FEELING OF HAMDI PERSONALLY FOR BOTH QABOOS AND ZAYD IS STRIKING, PARTICULARLY WHEN CONTRASTED WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL STRAINS IN HIS RLATIONSHIP WITH SAUDIS. ON EMOTIONAL BASIS, THESE TIES MAY CONTRIBUTE AS MUCH AS SAUDI CASH TO REORIENTATION WHICH HAMDI MAKING IN YAR'S TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIETS AND RADICAL ARAB STATES. TRIP THUS GIVES YEMENIS SOME (IF FALSE) SENSE OF ALTERNATIVES TO SAUDI GENEROSITY, SAUDI POLITICAL COORDINATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAUDI PLANS FOR PENINSULA. TRIP ALSO GAVE YEMENIS CHANCE TO ASSERT AGAIN THEIR INTEREST AND ROLE IN GULF SECURITY MEASURES. THIS INTEREST IS PROBABLY HARD TO TAKE SERIOUSLY IN GULF BUT IN THIS CORNER OF PENINSULA IT IS CLEARLY EFFORT TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE TO AND PROTECTION AGAINST WHAT YEMENIS REGARD AS DANGEROUSLY SUCCESSFUL LEFTIST TRENDS IN PDRY, SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA.

SCOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANA01474
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760164-0326
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760411/aaaaaiue.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HAMDI VISIT TO OMAN AND UAE RESULTS IN SOME NEW FOREIGN AID AND PROMISES OF VISIT BY SHAYKH ZAYD
TAGS: PFOR, YE, TC, MU, (AL-HAMDI, IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006